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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1A

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 13 September 1952

SUBJECT Replacement of Districts by Five-Family System
in North Korea

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1. On 1 November 1951 the North Korean government promulgated a law abolishing districts (myon) as a subdivision of local government in North Korea, effective 31 July 1952, and instituting the "five-family system" for residents of all villages (ri), effective 1 April 1952 for villages north of the 38 parallel and 1 July 1952 for villages south of the 38 parallel.
2. The purpose of the government's elimination of the district governments was the simplifying and expediting of government control exercised through the transmission of regulations. The purpose of the five-family system, in which each family in a group of five is jointly responsible for the activity of each of the other four families, was to reduce and detect anti-government activity.

25X1A 1. Comment. In January 1952 North Korean government authorities planned to simplify the field structure of administrative agencies through reducing the area controlled by a county (gun) office and expanding the county office itself, abolishing all district field offices, and extending the jurisdiction of the village offices, 25X1

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